

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 /091 R

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APPROVED BY INR/DDC - MCAFEE

AF - CGROSS

AF/RA - ANAVEZ

OASD/ISA:MR. BADER

JS-J5:COL GILES

DIA-AA-8:CDR CORNELIUS (INFO)

DIA-AA-6:LTC CARSON (INFO)

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P 302301Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

INFO DIA-AA-6 PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MA, US

SUBJECT: DATT AIRCRAFT IN TANANARIVE

1. DURING WORKING SESSION WITH ASST. SECRETARY NEWSOM
JULY 26, FOREIGN MINISTER RATSIRAKA SAID THAT FOR
POLITICAL REASONS, DATT AIRCRAFT IN TANANARIVE WILL HAVE
TO BE WITHDRAWN. HE CITED TWO PRINCIPAL REASONS:

(A) FRENCH AIR FORCE DEPARTING FROM TANANARIVE WILL LEAVE
DATT PLANE AS ONLY FOREIGN MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT IVATAO
AIRPORT. SINCE DATT PLANE HAS BEEN UTILIZING FRENCH
AIR FORCE SECTION OF IVATAO, IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY
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UNTENABLE FOR GOMR TO ALLOW DATT PLANE TO REMAIN AFTER

ASKING FRENCH TO LEAVE. (FYI MINISTER SAID FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO POINT OUT EMBARRASSMENT THAT WOULD BE CAUSED IF DATT PLANE REMAINED END FYI.)

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(B) SERVICING OF DATT PLANE IN SOUTH AFRICA INSTEAD OF MADAGASCAR CONSTITUTED ADDITIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEM WEIGHING IN FAVOR OF WITHDRAWAL.

2. NEWSOM ASKED IF CHANGE IN SERVICING ARRANGEMENTS TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE IN MADAGASCAR WOULD BE HELPFUL. RATSIRAKA SAID THAT OVERWHELMING POLITICAL REQUIREMENT IS THAT THERE BE NO FOREIGN MILITARY AIRCRAFT STATIONED IN TANANARIVE, AND DATT AIRCRAFT MUST THEREFORE BE WITHDRAWN. REMAINING FRENCH NAVAL AIRCRAFT IN DIEGO SUAREZ NOT COMPARABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL BE WITHDRAWN IN TWO YEARS, AND PERSONNEL ENGAGED IN TRAINING OF MALAGASY CITIZENS.

3. MR. NEWSOM ASKED WHETHER IF ATTACHE PLANE WERE STATIONED ELSEWHERE IN AREA IT WOULD BE GIVEN AUTHORIZATION TO VISIT MADAGASCAR. MINISTER REPLIED THAT SUCH VISITS WOULD HAVE TO BE ON BASIS OF INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZATION. ROGERS

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